

Weekly Column for October 26, 2006

Several weeks ago the City of Troy proudly announced the purchase of more than 35 acres of land along the South Troy Waterfront, which we have earmarked for future economic development.

As I talked about recently, we purchased this property through grants from the federal government intended to provide future economic growth on brownfields that have been recently ignored as places for potential.

The reason I mention this today is that Wednesday afternoon we received additional exciting news regarding the South Troy Waterfront when Governor George Pataki and Senator Joseph L. Bruno announced that the City of Troy would be the recipient of more than \$2 million in Restore NY grant funds.

The City applied for this grant money earlier this year and I would like to thank Grants Writer Bill Roehr for his continued hard work in achieving great success by obtaining as much possible money as he can for Troy.

The latest round of funding is projected to be spent on the former Rensselaer Iron Works, also known as the Scolite Property. This building has been talked about for several years as the building to house the Upper Hudson Rivers and Estuaries Center. For those of you that don't know, the Estuaries program is a freshwater research program that includes Columbia University and the Hudson River Estuaries Center in Beacon, NY.

Investment into this project will be the key to its success. The 11,000 square foot building needs significant work; there is no doubt about that. And that is why the announcement Wednesday is so important. We have long talked about turning the South Troy Waterfront into the great stretch of land it deserves to be, but in order to do that, it is essential that we work together with as many different agencies as possible.

Whether it is projects like the Estuaries Center, jobs on the former King Fuels Site, or recreational opportunities such as a bike path, we are committed to improving the viability of the Hudson River to the residents, business owners, and visitors in the City of Troy. We have 8 miles of uninterrupted river access from the southern section of the City all the way up through Lansingburgh. There is not another community in New York State, let alone the Capital District, that can claim that advantage.

Before I close this week, I just want to remind everyone that the Alamo will be open this Saturday, as it has each Saturday in October for anyone wishing to do some pre-winter cleaning.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy